security lapses that led to the assassination of General A. S. Vaidya at Pune; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the investigations and whether any responsibility has been fixed for the security lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The arrangements made for the security of General A. S. Vaidya have beeen looked into. The facts revealed have been brought to the notice of the Government of Maharashtra for taking further necessary action.

Technology for Coal Gasification, etc.

3228. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any research projects have so far been undertaken for development of technology, indigenously, for coal gasification process and off-shore mining;

(b) if so, what are the details of progress made in this regard; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to undertake any pilot projects for testing commercial viability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Number of Urban and Rural Post Offices

3229. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Post Offices of different categories in each circle as on the 1st April, 1984, on 1st April, 1985, on 1st April, 1986 and on 31st October, 1986;

(b) what is the number of urban and rural Post Offices opened and closed, year-wise, in each circle during the said period;

(c) whether there is any proposal to tighten the norms for urban and rural Post Offices; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Information as on 1-4-84, 1-4-85 and 1-4-86 is furnished in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below). Information as on 31-10-86 is under collection and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The norms for opening of Post Offices in urban areas have been revised. As regards norms for rural areas, the matter is not yet finalised.

(d) The urban norms which were in force earlier and those as revised with effect from 21-10-86 are furnished in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Year	HO's	DSO'S	EDS's	EDBO's	Total
1 4 84	852	24358	31993	107516	144719
1 4 85	852	24415	6269	113339	144785
1 4 86	849	24470	3768	115309	144396

HO's	Head Post Offices
DSO's	Departmental Sub Post Offices.
EDSO's	Extra-Departmental Sub Post Offices.
EDBO's	Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices.